

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1253

To establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 2007

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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## A BILL

To establish a fund for the National Park Centennial Challenge, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “National Park Centen-  
5       nial Challenge Fund Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8               (1) our national parks are icons of America;

9               (2) the one hundredth anniversary of the Na-

10       tional Park System will be in 2016;

1           (3) it is appropriate for all Americans to help  
2           in the efforts to enhance our parks as the country  
3           gets ready for this centennial celebration;

4           (4) the President has proposed a National Park  
5           Centennial Initiative that, over ten years, will pro-  
6           vide up to \$3,000,000,000 to prepare parks for an-  
7           other century of conservation, preservation, and en-  
8           joyment; and

9           (5) a part of that Initiative is the establishment  
10          of a Centennial Challenge to encourage individuals,  
11          foundations, and the private sector to donate money  
12          each year by providing up to \$100,000,000 in dedi-  
13          cated Federal funding to match donations for signa-  
14          ture projects and programs.

15          (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-  
16          lish a fund in the Treasury that will be used to finance  
17          signature projects and programs to enhance the National  
18          Park System as it approaches its centennial in 2016 and  
19          to prepare the parks for another century of conservation,  
20          preservation, and enjoyment.

21       **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22           In this Act:

23           (1) CHALLENGE FUND.—The term “Challenge  
24          Fund” means the National Park Centennial Chal-  
25          lenge Fund.

1           (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
2     the Director of the National Park Service.

3           (3) QUALIFIED DONATION.—The term “quali-  
4     fied donation” means a cash non-Federal donation  
5     to the National Park Service that the Director cer-  
6     tifies is for a listed signature project or program.

7           (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
8     Secretary of the Interior.

9           (5) SIGNATURE PROJECT OR PROGRAM.—The  
10    term “signature project or program” means any  
11    project or program identified by the Director as one  
12    that will help prepare the national parks for another  
13    century of conservation, preservation, and enjoy-  
14    ment.

15 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE FUND.**

16       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
17    Treasury a fund to be known as the National Park Cen-  
18    tennial Challenge Fund. The Challenge Fund shall consist  
19    of:

20           (1) Qualified donations transferred from the  
21    Donations to the National Park Service account, in  
22    accordance with section 6(a).

23           (2) Amounts appropriated from the general  
24    fund of the Treasury, in accordance with section  
25    6(b).

1 (b) AVAILABILITY.—All amounts deposited in the  
2 Challenge Fund shall be available, subject to restrictions  
3 in section 6(c), to the Secretary for signature projects and  
4 programs under this Act without further appropriation  
5 and without fiscal year limitation. No monies shall be  
6 available for indirect administrative costs. The expendi-  
7 ture of amounts in the Challenge Fund shall follow Fed-  
8 eral procurement and financial laws and standards.

9 **SEC. 5. SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.**

10 (a) LIST.—The Secretary, acting through the Direc-  
11 tor, shall develop a list of signature projects and programs  
12 eligible for funding from the Challenge Fund. The list  
13 shall be submitted to the President and to the Committees  
14 on Appropriations and Energy and Natural Resources in  
15 the United States Senate, and to the Committees on Ap-  
16 propriations and Natural Resources in the House of Rep-  
17 resentatives.

18 (b) SIGNATURE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS.—For  
19 purposes of this Act, a signature project or program shall  
20 be a project or program identified by the Director as one  
21 that will help prepare the national parks for another cen-  
22 tury of conservation, preservation, and enjoyment.

23 (c) UPDATES.—The Secretary, acting through the  
24 Director, may, from time to time as the Secretary or Di-  
25 rector finds necessary, add any project or program to the

1 list developed pursuant to subsection (a) that the Director  
2 believes is a signature project or program. If the Director  
3 adds any project or program to the list, the Secretary shall  
4 notify the Committees referred to in subsection (a) at the  
5 time the project or program is added.

6 **SEC. 6. DONATIONS AND MATCHING FEDERAL FUNDS.**

7 (a) **QUALIFIED DONATIONS.**—Beginning on October  
8 1, 2007, and ending on September 30, 2017, the Secretary  
9 may transfer to the Challenge Fund qualified donations  
10 of cash, including cash to liquidate a letter of credit, re-  
11 ceived by the National Park Service.

12 (b) **MATCHING AMOUNT.**—There is hereby appro-  
13 priated in each fiscal year beginning on October 1, 2007,  
14 and ending on September 30, 2017, an amount equal to  
15 the qualified donations received and the pledge of dona-  
16 tions through letters of credit in the same fiscal year, not  
17 to exceed \$100,000,000 in any one year. In no case may  
18 the matching amount exceed the amount of donations re-  
19 ceived or pledged in any year. For the purpose of this sub-  
20 section, the Secretary may consider a donation for any fis-  
21 cal year to be received when a pledge of a donation for  
22 that fiscal year is guaranteed and a valid irrevocable letter  
23 of credit is issued for such purposes.

24 (c) **OBLIGATIONS.**—The Secretary may not obligate  
25 any amounts based on a letter of credit, or amounts to

1 match a letter of credit pursuant to subsection (b), until  
2 amounts from that letter of credit are deposited in the  
3 Challenge Fund.

4 (d) SOLICITATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-  
5 strued as expanding any authority that exists on the date  
6 of its enactment with respect to the ability of the National  
7 Park Service and its employees to receive or solicit for do-  
8 nations.

9 **SEC. 7. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

10 The Secretary shall provide with the submission of  
11 the President’s budget a list of the signature projects and  
12 programs and the status of their funding.

13 **SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.**

14 The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as  
15 may be necessary to carry out this Act.

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